

PRESS RELEASE



The Cleveland Museum of Art

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**ARTISTIC INTERACTION BETWEEN KOREA, CHINA, AND JAPAN HIGHLIGHTED IN
EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITION AT THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART**

Korea: Bridge of Culture, the educational support exhibition designed to complement the major exhibition, 5,000 Years of Korean Art, highlights Korea as the transmitter, from China to Japan, of Buddhism and Buddhist art. It also shows the major contributions of Korea to the development of ceramic technology.

Korea continually absorbed foreign ideologies and artistic inspirations from its larger and more powerful neighbor, China. It added its own unique innovations and characteristics, and then introduced them to the powerful island country, Japan. In the historic interaction of these three nations, Korea was indeed a bridge of culture.

On display in the classroom level gallery from June 11 through August 10, the forty objects in the free exhibition are arranged so that viewers may compare examples of sculpture, painting, ceramics, and decorative arts from China, Korea, and Japan, with wall panels and object labels providing explanatory text.

The exhibition traces the historical route of Buddhism, as it entered Korea from China in the fourth century and was then introduced to Japan during the sixth century. Major Buddhist dieties are presented and their iconography is explained by comparing sculptures and paintings from the Museum's Oriental collection with photographs of objects in the major exhibition.

In addition to Buddhist icons, the exhibition contains accessories of Buddhist worship including holy texts, portable shrines, and reliquaries. The use of these objects in temple ceremonies and individual worship is examined.

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Korea: Bridge of Culture also emphasizes Korea's twelfth century contributions to the refinement and ornamentation of green-glazed celadon stoneware; traces the celadon tradition to its Chinese sources; and illustrates the Korean potter's highest achievement, the inlay technique.

In addition, the exhibition shows that Korean technology and ceramics were instrumental in the development of Japanese ceramics, particularly blue and white porcelains. Parallel examples from China, Korea, and Japan document the advancing development of blue and white porcelain in the three countries.

Organized by Joellen DeOreo and Marjorie Williams of the Department of Art History and Education at The Cleveland Museum of Art, the exhibition includes objects on loan from both the Archaeology Museum and the Museum of Art at the University of Michigan in addition to those from the permanent collection here.

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